Kokrajhar railway stations in Assam have no adequate arrangements of potable water and as a result thereof passengers have to face great difficulties;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any scheme for providing potable water on the said railway stations; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Drinking water facilities commensurate with the volume of passenger traffic handled has already been provided at all stations.

Installation of High Tech Radar in A.P.

989. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether high-tech radar was installed at Begumpet airport in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the main purpose therefor;

(c) if so, whether by setting up this radar the Government will be in a position to detect the alien aircraft;

(d) whether any other airports have been provided with such facilities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which all the airports are likely to be provided with such facilities?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Airport Surveillance Radar (ASR) and Secondary Surveillance Radar (SSR) have been commissioned in September, 1995.

(b) and (c) The Airport Surveillance Radar will detect any aircraft flying within 60 nautical miles radius. The Secondary Surveillance Radar can detect aircraft equipped with transponders within 250 nautical miles radius.

(d) and (e) ASR/MSSR facilities have been commissioned at Thiruvananthapuram airport. This equipment is being installed at Delhi, Guwahati, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay airports and will be commissioned during the period March 1997 to August, 1997.

Modernisation of Barddhaman Railway Station

990. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering for modernisation and expansion of Barddhaman Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Works of remodelling of yard, replacement of indoor and outdoor signalling gears, computerisation of passenger reservation system, provision of battery charging facilities, extension/ provision of shed on various platforms, improvements to lighting, provision of additional tube well and provision of train indicator board have been taken up at Barddhaman railway station.

Construction of Overbridge at Level Crossings

991. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the level crossings on NH 17 at Muzhappilangad, Nadal And Chovva in Cannanore district of Kerala create bottlenecks for the road transport causing undue delay and wastage of time of passengers;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to construct over bridges at above crossings;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala for construction of overbridges at above crossings; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Kerala State Governments was advised to sponsor the proposal required under extant rules, which is still awaited.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Prasar Bharati Bill

992. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a Broadcasting Authority in order to streamline the functioning of Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have discussed the recommendations of the Expert Group constituted for the Prasar Bharati Bill with various Political Parties/ State Governments;

(d) if so, the details and outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A meeting was held on 13th September, 1996 to solicit the views of various political parties on the recommendations made by the Sengupta Committee. A questionnaire was also sent to representatives of all political parties. The report was also circulated and discussed in the State Information Minister's Conference (SIMCON) held on 28th and 29th October, 1996.

After taking these views into consideration, an Amendment Bill will soon be introduced in Parliament.

Computerised Reservation Centres in West Bengal

993. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to open computerised reservation centres at Kalna, Katwa, Suri, Rampurhat, Sitarampor, Barakar, Barrackpore, Ranaghat, Shrirampur, Midnapore, Uluberia and New Jalpaiguri Railway Stations in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the time by which the said centres are likely to be opened; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Provision of computerised reservation facilities at Barrackpore is included in the Budget for 1997-98. Reservation workload at other places is lesser than the criterion of reservation related transaction per day and does not presently justify the provision of these facilities. Introduction of computerised reservation at the other stations will be considered as and when the reservation workload increases adequately.

Installation of Train Describer System at Howrah

994. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to instal Train Describer System at Howrah for improvement in train control and to increase productivity in terms of number of trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present the installation of the system at Howrah is not considered cost effective.

TV Studio/HPT, Orissa

995. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far on the construction of studio and provision of adequate transmission facilities at High Power TV transmitter in Orissa particularly in Bhawanipatna, Kalahandi district;

(b) the reason for such slow progress;

(c) whether the representations have been received in this regard by State Government and Members of Parliament of the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to complete the work at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) Whereas the High Power TV transmitter (HPT) at Bhawanipatna has been in operation since January'92, civil works for the studio projects at Bhawanipatna and Sambalpur (permanent set-up) and HPT projects at Sambalpur and Baleshwar are in progress and are targetted for completion during 1998, subject to timely supply of equipment and other infrastructural facilities.

(c) to (e) Though representations have been received from the State Government and Members of Parliament in this regard, it is the endeavour of Doordarshan to complete all the projects on schedule as far as possible.

Daily Running of Shipra Express

996. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the demand of the people of Bhopal, Indore as well as Calcutta to run the Shipra Express daily and attach pantry car and AC 3 Coach with it;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also considering to fulfil these demands by changing the rake into air brake;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received in this regard.

(c) to (e) Shipra Express is running tri-weekly and on the remaining 4 days Howrah-Agra/Gwalior Chambal Express is running. Increase in its frequency and provision of Air Brake rakes with A.C. 3 tier coach have